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25 December 1953

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Copy No.

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 10
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
[] DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2009
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: DEC 1953 REVIEWER:

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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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SUMMARY

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FAR EAST

1. Neutral report on Korean prisoners may intensify Indian demand for UN discussions:

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The American embassy in London reported on 23 December that the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission's report on Korean prisoners might "renew" Indian pressure for fresh General Assembly instructions before the period of neutral custodianship ends on 23 January.

Comment: Prime Minister Nehru's suggestion on 23 December that early General Assembly discussions be held on the Korean prisoner issue appears to confirm the embassy's observation. India probably recognizes, however, that the UN can do little to solve the problem, and it is likely that the NNRC will have to decide the issue itself.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

2. Viet Minh task force probes central Laos:

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Elements of the Viet Minh 325th Division have captured a small French post in central Laos, and have attacked another. the

The French believe these attacks are designed to draw their reserves from the delta. They are not overly concerned in view of the large front, difficult terrain, and the limited number of Viet Minh troops involved.

Comment: A penetration of central Laos by the Viet Minh has been anticipated. The forces involved are small and could constitute only a secondary effort against that country. Any major attack would be launched against northern Laos from Tonkin, where the bulk of the enemy forces are located.

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Approved For Release 2004/01/16 : CIA-RDP79T00975A001400100001-4

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